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Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report describes progress made in 2014 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in supporting the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It outlines the development of new standards and norms and the Office's efforts to collect and analyse data, develop implementation tools and provide technical assistance at the global, regional and country levels. It also describes partnerships the Office has been involved in to promote coherent intervention in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

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I. Introduction and overview of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice

1. Strengthened crime prevention and fair, humane and effective criminal justice systems are prerequisites for fighting urban crime and violence, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism. During the reporting period, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made significant progress in the development and promotion of the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,[1] which cover the following areas: (a) persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions, juvenile justice and restorative justice; (b) crime prevention and victim issues; and (c) good governance, the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of criminal justice personnel. The standards and norms are also central to the work of the United Nations in the areas of the rule of law and human rights, as they provide detailed guidance on various principles of human rights in crime prevention and the administration of justice.

2. In the current discussions regarding the global development agenda beyond 2015, the work of UNODC in preventing crime and violence and supporting criminal justice systems has been highlighted as an essential contribution to development. In its resolution 69/195, the General Assembly underscored that the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda should take into account respect for and promotion of the rule of law and that crime prevention and criminal justice have an important role in that regard. In February 2015, the Assembly held a high-level thematic debate on the theme "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice in the post-2015 development agenda". The need to integrate crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law will also inform the discussions at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015.

3. The UNODC thematic programme on crime prevention and criminal justice reform focuses on assisting Member States in developing new instruments, strategies, policies and programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice reform. Support includes advocacy, research and knowledge exchange, legislative and legal support, norm-setting and technical assistance. The thematic programme is currently being implemented in over 40 countries in all regions of the world, through regional and country programmes and projects, as well as through a global project covering the period 2012-2015, in line with the mid-term strategy and the strategic framework for UNODC for that period.

4. Under the global project on support to crime prevention and criminal justice reform,[2] the Office continued its work in all regions, covering all areas of the thematic programme on crime prevention and criminal justice reform. All of the normative activities, most of the tool-development activities and several of the

[1] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* (New York, 2006).

[2] Project GLOT63.

technical assistance activities mentioned in the present report took place under that global project.

II. Setting standards

5. During the reporting period, UNODC continued supporting Member States in setting global standards in the areas of improving the treatment of prisoners and preventing and addressing violence against children and the gender-related killing of women and girls.

6. In December 2014, the General Assembly, in its resolution 69/192, decided to extend the mandate of the Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, authorizing it to continue its work, with the aim of reaching a consensus, and to present a report to the Thirteenth Congress and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session for consideration. The report on the fourth meeting of the Expert Group, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 2 to 5 March 2015 will be made available to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session, in document E/CN.15/2015/17.

7. In its resolution 69/194, upon the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. That new set of standards and norms had been developed with the support of UNODC at an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting held in Bangkok in February 2014.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/191, UNODC convened an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting to discuss ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the gender-related killing of women and girls, with a view to making practical recommendations, drawing on current best practices, in consultation with relevant United Nations entities and human rights mechanisms. The meeting was held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 November 2014. At that meeting, a number of practical recommendations were made, which are contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the expert group meeting (E/CN.15/2015/16).

III. Analysing trends

9. The standards and norms underline the importance of empirical evidence for effective crime prevention and criminal justice administration. UNODC collects and analyses statistical data from Member States, develops statistical standards to improve data quality and provides technical support to enhance national capacities to produce and analyse data.

10. In 2014, UNODC continued to collect data on selected crimes and on the operation of justice systems through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems. The network of national focal points to coordinate national responses to the Survey was further extended to cover 115 countries and territories, which had a positive impact on the response rate and

the quality and coherence of the data provided. Data collected through the Survey are regularly published on the UNODC website to facilitate access for a broad range of users.

11. In April 2014, UNODC published the *Global Study on Homicide 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data*,[3] based mainly on data collected through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and supplemented by further data collection. The study contains an analysis of patterns and trends in intentional homicide for 219 countries and territories, an examination of homicide and violence in the wake of conflict, the roles played by firearms and other mechanisms, and an analysis of the criminal justice response to homicide.

12. In order to improve crime statistics in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, UNODC developed — jointly with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) — a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels (contained in E/CN.3/2013/11). That document was prepared for the consideration of the United Nations Statistical Commission and was also transmitted to the Commission at its twenty-second session. In that document, which is wide-ranging in scope and has a long-term perspective, concrete areas of work are identified for strengthening methodological standards on crime statistics, supporting countries' capacities and improving international data on and analyses of crime. In 2014, UNODC continued to develop activities to improve statistical information on crime in accordance with the road map by providing advice, training and other services to Member States directed at strengthening crime and criminal justice statistics. As in previous years, UNODC provided information on activities related to the road map to the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which will also be made available to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.[4]

13. As one of the major activities outlined in the road map, and one that provides a tool for improving the accuracy, consistency and comparability of statistics on crime and the criminal justice system, in 2014, the work on the development of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes will reach an important milestone, with the submission of the Classification to the Statistical Commission for review and adoption at its forty-sixth session, to be held from 3 to 6 March 2015, and will also be made available to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.[5] It will be the first standard classification of crime for statistical purposes and will provide reference definitions for the production of crime statistics and a framework for systematic crime analyses.[6]

14. UNODC continued to provide technical support to countries implementing surveys and studies on a number of crime issues, including corruption, crime victimization and access to justice. UNODC is leading an initiative, jointly with the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice and the Inter-American Development

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. 14.IV.1.

[4] See E/CN.15/2014/10, E/CN.3/2015/8 and E/CN.15/2015/14.

[5] See E/CN.3/2015/7 and E/CN.15/2015/13.

[6] Information on the process used to develop the Classification, on its contents and on the implementation plan is available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html.

Bank, to develop a common methodology for the conduct of victimization surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean.

15. UNODC published the *Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014* jointly with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The report reviews the status of legislation and policies to prevent youth violence, armed and gang violence, child maltreatment, violence against women and elder abuse. While there has been progress in enacting legislation, the implementation of policies and programmes remains a challenge. The report calls for a scaling up of violence prevention programmes, stronger legislation and enforcement of laws relevant to violence prevention and enhanced services for victims of violence. It invites countries to invest in violence prevention on a level commensurate with the scale and severity of the problem.

IV. Developing tools and providing guidance

16. During the reporting period, UNODC continued developing handbooks, training curricula and guidance notes to support technical assistance in various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.[7] The translation of existing tools into different languages continued, making them available to a larger audience. The Office also continued to disseminate the standards and norms and to promote their use and application by organizing and participating in workshops in different regions and through its technical assistance programmes.

17. UNODC issued an introductory handbook entitled *State Regulation concerning Civilian Private Security Services and their Contribution to Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, which provides examples of self-regulation and other international good practice and an overview of internationally agreed standards concerning human rights, security, crime prevention and community safety.

18. The Office published a guide entitled *The Status and Role of Prosecutors*, which it had developed jointly with the International Association of Prosecutors. That tool is aimed at assisting countries in the review or development of rules for the prosecution service, in accordance with the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors and the Association's Standards of professional responsibility and statement of the essential duties and rights of prosecutors.

19. UNODC started developing a technical paper to facilitate its technical assistance to Member States to support them in their efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families. In that context, UNODC organized an expert meeting in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, at which the draft technical paper was well received.

20. UNODC issued a publication entitled *Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women* to provide a framework for developing national implementation plans for the criminal justice system to respond to such violence, based on the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and

[7] Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/tools.html.

Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 65/228, annex). Based on those updated Model Strategies, UNODC also issued the *Handbook on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls* with a view to assisting both individual prosecutors and prosecution services in their duty to uphold the rule of law, firmly protecting human rights in cases involving violence against women and girls.

21. UNODC developed an introductory booklet to the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and a checklist to assist agencies responsible for their implementation in reviewing their capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children in the applicable field. UNODC also developed two training curricula on the treatment of child victims and witnesses of crime, one aimed at prosecutors and judges and the other aimed at law enforcement officials.

22. UNODC started developing a tool for drafting legal aid legislation, with the input and support of a number of leading experts on the issue from different regions. The module on legal aid of the Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit is being updated in line with the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems.

23. Recent empirical evidence has revealed that a large number of prison systems around the world are in crisis, with grave effects for prisoners, their families and societies as a whole. The multi-dimensional crisis manifests itself in three major aspects: (a) the continuing growth of the prison population and the challenge of prison overcrowding; (b) the severe costs of imprisonment, both financial and socioeconomic; and (c) the limited extent to which the core functions of imprisonment are met in practice. In many cases, high or increasing trends have been observed in terms of recidivism, mortality, morbidity and violence in prison, overrepresentation of vulnerable groups and the risk of radicalization and the sharing of criminal practices among prisoners.

24. UNODC has a range of mandates and technical assistance tools to support efforts to reduce the scope of imprisonment, strengthen prison management to improve prison conditions and support the reintegration of offenders, while addressing specific criminal justice responses for women and children in relation to offending and imprisonment. The Office issued the second edition of the *Handbook on Women and Imprisonment*, which now includes references to the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and a publication with commentaries on the Bangkok Rules. The Office started developing a training curriculum for prison officials complementing that handbook, an information note on non-custodial measures for female offenders for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and public defenders, and handbooks on anti-corruption measures in prisons, on high-risk prisoners and on dynamic security in prisons.

V. Providing sustained technical assistance

A. Africa

25. In East Africa, UNODC provided technical assistance in support of national criminal justice systems to Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania, through its regional programme[8] and its maritime crime programme.[9] Measures focused on reforming the entire criminal justice chain through police reform and capacity-building for law enforcement, prosecution services, courts and prisons, in order to ensure fair and efficient trials and secure and humane imprisonment.

26. In Ethiopia,[10] UNODC supported the ongoing development of a national crime prevention strategy, a national legal aid strategy and the revision of the Judicial Code of Conduct. In collaboration with the Justice Organs Professionals Training Center, UNODC drafted a road map for the development of a training curriculum for judges and prosecutors in specialized areas, including accountability and integrity, alternatives to imprisonment and justice for children. The Office supported the Federal Supreme Court in developing alternatives to imprisonment and conducted assessments of five of the six federal prisons and the closed juvenile rehabilitation centre in Addis Ababa, with recommendations on future support. Training for prison staff dealing with children in conflict with the law was also provided. UNODC supported training and the implementation of legislation on protecting witnesses of crime.

27. In Kenya, UNODC continued to support police reform,[11] with a focus on strategic planning, community-oriented policing, integrity and oversight, including training, human rights and gender mainstreaming. UNODC also organized a training-of-trainers course for prosecutors on sexual and gender-based violence, followed by peer training conducted by the participants at the local level. The Office provided support for piracy prosecutions, including lawyers for defendants, interpretation services, travel of foreign witnesses and video link facilities for testimony. A number of prisons received UNODC assistance and training, leading to improved vocational training, security, sanitation, dormitories, classrooms, medical clinics and staff housing.

28. In Somalia,[12] UNODC developed manuals and handbooks for criminal justice actors in Somaliland, including a litigants' charter that was disseminated through an advocacy campaign. UNODC supported the drafting and adoption of the legal aid act of Somaliland and provided training on criminal legal aid to law practitioners. A criminal trials court benchbook was developed and used to train judges. The Office also developed a comprehensive education programme for officers in the Somaliland police and provided technical assistance and advisory services to the Attorney General's Office of Somaliland to help professionalize the prosecution services and strengthen the systems of internal management. Together with the

[8] Project XEAU78.

[9] Projects XAMX74, XEAX20, XEAX94, XEAZ22 and XSSX11.

[10] Project ETHX97.

[11] Project KENZ04.

[12] Projects SOMX54 and SOMZ15.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a comprehensive assessment of the juvenile justice system in Somaliland was carried out. Prison reform activities were implemented in Mogadishu, Bosasso, Garowe, Hargeisa and Mandhera. The Office supported the Somaliland Coast Guard and the Maritime Police Unit of the Somali Police Force, including by placing international mentors within them. The UNODC Hostage Support Programme provided medical care to piracy hostages and facilitated the onward journey of 14 released hostages.

29. In South Sudan,[13] UNODC was forced to suspend all activities under its prison reform project owing to the outbreak of violence. Its programme office in Juba was closed in June 2014. Despite the fragile security situation, the previous phase of the project had been cost-efficient and effectively supported the prison training academy, thanks to excellent working relations between UNODC, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and national stakeholders.[14]

30. In Central Africa, UNODC provided training to directors-general of prison administrations, prison directors and law enforcement officials from three countries of the region at a workshop in Duala, Cameroon. The workshop was organized by the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, with the participation of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa.

31. In West Africa, UNODC continued developing crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the increase in piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. Based on the outcome of a workshop for law enforcement and judiciary personnel from the region, an initial legal assessment was conducted for Togo. Additional funding has been received and a legal reform programme is being implemented in Benin, Gabon, Nigeria and Togo.

32. As part of its Sahel programme,[15] UNODC held three regional workshops, on access to legal aid in the criminal justice system, on prison reform and on victims' rights for relevant officials and practitioners from Sahel countries. Those workshops helped to establish technical assistance priorities and a workplan for the region for the period 2015-2016. Improving prison management in line with international standards was identified as a priority area.

33. In Liberia,[16] efforts to support the Office of the Public Defender in ensuring access to justice for indigent clients were delayed because of the Ebola outbreak. Despite this challenge, UNODC conducted two basic skills training sessions and a training-of-trainers workshop for public defenders from across the country. UNODC also delivered supplies to the Office of the Public Defender and developed training and practice manuals for future dissemination to public defenders.

[13] Project SSDX98.

[14] Project SDNX06, an independent evaluation of which is available at www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Independent_Project_Evaluations/2014/SDNX06_Independent_Project_Evaluation_Report_2014.pdf.

[15] Project XAMZ17.

[16] Project LBRZ21.

34. In Nigeria,[17] UNODC assisted 9 of 10 focal states in developing a three-year strategic action plan for justice sector reform. The Office supported the national police in finalizing a human rights training manual, developed in conjunction with the National Judicial Council. UNODC facilitated reform of the current performance evaluation and recruitment process for judges and conducted an assessment of prisons and remand facilities in the 10 focal states, with a focus on the inflow and outflow of prisoners, numbers of pretrial detainees and pre- and post-release rehabilitation facilities. The Office assisted the Legal Aid Council in drafting the National Legal Aid Strategy and developed, in conjunction with the Nigerian Law Reform Commission, a draft bill providing sentencing guidelines for the judiciary and measures against torture. UNODC supported the finalization of the national Prosecutors Policy, Prosecutorial Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Prosecutors.

35. In Southern Africa,[18] UNODC prepared a customized version of its handbook and training curriculum on police responses to violence against women for the Southern African Development Community region. Those tools were used in national training workshops in Seychelles (March 2014), the United Republic of Tanzania (March 2014), Mauritius (April 2014) and Angola (July 2014). Participants included investigators, police trainers, prosecutors, and social and health services officials. Based on the situational assessments of gender-based violence, UNODC organized briefing workshops for national stakeholders in Mozambique (March 2014), Lesotho (April 2014), Namibia (April 2014), Swaziland (June 2014) and Zimbabwe (September 2014) to provide input for the national action plans based on the assessment findings.

B. Asia

36. In East Asia and the Pacific, UNODC collaborated with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP on a multi-country research study that examined the attrition rates of reported cases of sexual violence of women and girls in India, Thailand and Viet Nam. In November 2014, the Office held a regional workshop and training-of-trainers event on the treatment of children in contact with the justice system as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders. Participants included trainers from police, prosecutorial, judicial and social services from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. Those events promoted the newly adopted United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and built on the successful outcomes of Project Childhood, which enhanced legal reform and law enforcement capacity for national and transnational action against

[17] Project NGAV18.
[18] Project XASV23.

child sex offenders in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam.[19]

37. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNODC contributed to the drafting of a new penal code by providing advice on penal sanctions and non-custodial measures.

38. In Myanmar, UNODC completed a preliminary assessment of the prosecution service and a comprehensive assessment of the national police, including recommendations for police reform. The Office built the capacity of the police in the area of crime prevention and supported the Government in exploring the development of a national crime prevention strategy. UNODC provided inputs to bring legislation related to violence against women and drug control into line with international standards and norms, including with regard to penal sanctions and non-custodial measures.

39. In Thailand, UNODC provided a mobile training unit that contributes to preventing violence and sexual exploitation by providing education for street children in slum areas, raising awareness and providing crucial health and food supplies to remote areas.

40. In Viet Nam,[20] UNODC continued its work under the "One UN" framework. The Office conducted a workshop to promote police integrity, accountability and transparency, following a study tour to Hong Kong, China, for high-level officials of the police and judiciary. The Office supported the review of the national legal aid strategy to increase access for women and children. It contributed to the development of a ministerial circular on gender equality in legal aid services and trained legal aid officers and pro bono lawyers providing legal aid for victims of domestic violence. UNODC supported the revision of the penal code and penal procedure code, promoting the incorporation of relevant international standards and norms, especially concerning violence against women. The Office developed training materials on domestic violence for judges and court personnel and trained police officers to enhance their responses to domestic violence. Domestic violence response checklists and information collection forms helped front-line officers in identifying and acting on reported cases. UNODC also continued producing successful television programmes to raise public awareness on domestic violence. In order to foster the implementation of the Bangkok Rules, UNODC conducted two training workshops for Vietnamese prison staff.

41. In Nepal,[21] UNODC organized a study tour for government counterparts to prisons in Thailand to foster information exchange and learning concerning good prison management, with a special focus on international human rights standards in overall health system reforms, including with regard to HIV, tuberculosis and specific issues of women and children in prison.

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[19] Project XSPT33, an independent evaluation of which is available at www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Independent_Project_Evaluations/2014/XSPT33_Independent_Project_Evaluation_Report_June_2014.pdf.

[20] Project VNMT28.

[21] Project NPLJ80.

42. In Afghanistan,[22] UNODC contributed to the consolidation and revision of the special part of the national penal code. The Office made progress in constructing court facilities and handed over the new district court buildings in Ghoryan (Herat) and Hairatan (Balkh) to the Government. In the same provinces, UNODC provided vocational and educational training for prisoners to foster social reintegration.

43. In the Islamic Republic of Iran,[23] UNODC organized a national workshop on access to legal aid, with the participation of judges, lawyers and officials from the judiciary, followed by a national meeting attended by national and international legal aid practitioners, who discussed the role and importance of law clinics. The Office also organized national meetings on alternatives to imprisonment and on witness and victim protection, attended by experts and officials from the judiciary and police.

44. In Kyrgyzstan,[24] UNODC provided legislative assistance and supported the development of a new criminal procedure code, which contains provisions for judicial control over the use of special investigative measures by the police and automatic initiation of pretrial investigations and other measures to strengthen external oversight of the police and improve legal safeguards. UNODC also supported the development of a new criminal executive code, which strengthens the focus of the prison system on social reintegration of offenders and contains better provisions on the prohibition of discrimination in prisons, on legal aid for offenders and on public oversight. The Office published the results of a crime prevention assessment and supported the development of local crime prevention plans. In the area of police reform, UNODC contributed to the adoption of a new policy on the competitive recruitment of police officers and the development of new guidelines for police performance appraisal. Technical assistance and training focused on gender-sensitive policing and on developing police-public partnerships at the local level; two new police stations were opened and a communication skills training programme for over 40 police officers was completed in two southern provinces. UNODC also started a new training programme for police officers on gender sensitivity as part of new work supported by the Peacebuilding Fund. UNODC published analytical reports on prison security and the application of disciplinary measures in the prison system and conducted regular prison monitoring to assess progress in relation to the development of prison income-generating activities and vocational training. UNODC also facilitated discussions in the Coordination Council on Prison Reform, including on key policy issues, such as the possible transfer of prison health care to the Ministry of Health.

45. In Pakistan,[25] UNODC made progress in supporting the reform of the police, prosecution services and prisons. Specific measures focused on training of trainers and key staff, monitoring and accountability, and updates to the regulatory framework of the prison administration. Notable results included better methods of investigation, increased numbers of cases resolved by the police and submitted in time for prosecution, enhanced cooperation between the police and prosecutors, new

[22] Project AFGK62.
[23] Project IRNV05.
[24] Project KGZT90.
[25] Project PAKU84.

prison rules consistent with international standards, registry software for prison management and training manuals for different levels of prison staff.[26]

C. Latin America and the Caribbean

46. In Latin America and the Caribbean,[27] UNODC continued to support regional efforts to increase the use and application of relevant international standards and norms. The Office promoted the Bangkok Rules at a regional meeting in Guatemala. The meeting was attended by prison officials from Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama and offered a platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices in the treatment of women prisoners. A set of recommendations was agreed upon by participants with a view to continuing the dialogue and checking on each other's progress through regular meetings of the group, organized with the support of UNODC.

47. In Brazil,[28] UNODC successfully concluded the "Expressive youth" project, which benefited over 100 at-risk youth through youth-led individual and social capital-building initiatives in high-crime satellite cities of Brasilia. The next phase is expected to focus on crime prevention advocacy and the production of knowledge on youth mortality to inform policy.

48. In Colombia,[29] the Office provided technical assistance to local governments and trained law enforcement officials and prosecutors in restorative justice for children and fostered the exchange of best national and international practices. UNODC supported the formulation of local plans for citizen coexistence and security, designed tools to facilitate their monitoring and evaluation, and held workshops in 12 cities. The Office also developed an analytical framework to promote the use of security data for crime prevention in Medellín and implemented a local safety audit in Barrancabermeja, using gender-sensitive methodologies.

49. In Haiti, UNODC provided advice on penal sanctions and non-custodial measures to the technical committee in charge of drafting a new penal code.

50. In Mexico,[30] UNODC continued to provide normative assistance on criminal justice and prison reform to the states of Chiapas and Durango, as well as to the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District. Technical cooperation was expanded to the State of Coahuila, Mexico State and the municipality of Acapulco in the areas of crime prevention and prevention of violence, with particular emphasis on training and awareness-raising on violence against women. At the federal level, the Office started supporting the Attorney General's Office and the Coordination Council for Criminal Justice Reform Implementation in the transition to the adversarial system at the state level. UNODC promoted the incorporation of prison reform and alternatives to imprisonment into the national programme for the social prevention of violence and crime for 2014.

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[26] See www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/indepth-evaluations/2014/IDE_Report_CP_Pakistan_mid-term_evaluation_2014.pdf.

[27] Projects PANV28 and DOMV07.

[28] Project BRAX16.

[29] Projects COLU99 and GLOT63.

[30] Projects MEXV27 and MEXZ14.

51. In Panama, UNODC concluded a project on prison reform,[31] which strengthened the Prison Training Academy, improved living conditions for women prisoners and increased educational, labour and productive activities for prisoners. Jointly with other United Nations agencies, UNODC conducted an evaluation of the juvenile justice system. The Office provided support to the National Secretariat for Assistance and Protection for Victims and Witnesses.[32] Under the security cooperation programme for Panama,[33] UNODC continued to strengthen the institutional capacity of the prison system and the public prosecution service to facilitate the transition towards the adversarial system and to enhance specialized prosecution capacities. Through a new project, the Office will assist the judiciary in the transition process to speed up criminal procedures and give the population wider access to justice.

52. In Paraguay,[34] UNODC carried out an overall assessment of the needs of the penitentiary system and the penitentiary facilities, with a view to developing a strategic plan for prison reform. UNODC conducted a number of training events on the Bangkok Rules, on regional experiences and on prison management. An in-depth technical assistance needs assessment of the juvenile justice system was carried out, challenges were identified and recommendations were made in relation to legislation, institutional capacity and practice.

53. In Peru, UNODC started implementing a new project on crime prevention and victim assistance,[35] which is aimed at reducing small-arms violence and promoting dialogue for peaceful coexistence, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups and reducing the vulnerability of adolescents to gender-based violence by promoting education and health programmes. UNODC organized a workshop on best practices concerning alternatives to imprisonment, followed by the establishment of the first network of justice and social sector officials to assist children in conflict with the law and to divert them to more effective restorative justice programmes.

D. North Africa and the Middle East

54. In the Arab States,[36] UNODC provided technical assistance at the regional and national levels, which was affected by various conflicts in the region. In the Gulf region, UNODC conducted training and provided technical advice and support in response to national counterparts' immediate needs for capacity-building in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice. UNODC also continued to promote and increase awareness of international standards and norms, as the main vehicle to create demand for further technical cooperation in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice. Partnership agreements were concluded with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice of Bahrain.

55. In Egypt, UNODC supported prison reform and the development of codes of conduct for judges, departments of the Ministry of Justice, members of legal

[31] Project PANX12.
[32] Project PANT37.
[33] Project PANZ24.
[34] Project PRYX68.
[35] Project PERZ32.
[36] Project XAMV12.

departments, witness experts and forensic doctors. The Office provided legislative advice on violence against women that contributed to a new law criminalizing sexual harassment. UNODC brought together criminal justice actors to draft a workplan to improve the experience of women survivors of violence when in contact with the criminal justice system. The rehabilitation and reintegration project for young male offenders in Marg entered a new phase focusing on the classification of inmates and the inspection of the facility. So far, 600 children and young people have benefited from the project and 100 have been able to create their own small businesses.

56. In Jordan, UNODC built on the outcomes and lessons learned from its project to support the juvenile justice system.[37] The Office started refurbishing two new branches of the Juvenile Police Department in Amman and Mafraq, near the Syrian refugee camp in Za'atri, to ensure a child-friendly environment inside those branches.[38] The Office provided training to the Criminal Investigation Department on the preparation of criminal files during the preliminary investigation phase and organized several workshops to enhance cooperation between the Public Prosecution Office and investigative officers.

57. In Lebanon, UNODC completed its penal reform programme, which enhanced conditions and the rehabilitation of prisoners and increased transparency and inter-agency cooperation in the prison system.[39] The transfer of the prison authority from the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Justice became effective at the policy and operational levels; the administration for that purpose was established and is now functional. In addition, a prison data system was established, allowing the tracking of prisoner case files and providing an accurate analysis of the prison population.

58. In Morocco, UNODC participated in a training event on the rule of law for judicial affairs officers. It also provided training on criminal justice assessments and on the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

59. In the State of Palestine, UNODC supported efforts to combat violence against women through its project on forensic service assistance.[40] Relevant activities included the development of standard operating procedures for more health-care-centred and gender-sensitive services for victims, workshops on recognition of gender-based violence and child abuse for forensic medicine practitioners and for the national referral system, the establishment of dedicated clinics with specialized personnel who are available at any time to victims, who can remain anonymous, the development of a best-practice manual on sexual and gender-based violence for forensic medicine practitioners, and related training for doctors and nurses.

[37] Project JORT36, an independent evaluation of which is available at www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Independent_Project_Evaluations/2014/JORT36_Final_Independent_Project_Evaluation_Report_July_2014.pdf.

[38] Project JORZ09.

[39] Project LBNT94, an independent evaluation of which is available at www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Independent_Project_Evaluations/2014/LBNT94_Final_Evaluation_Report_2014.pdf.

[40] Project PSEX02.

60. In Tunisia,[41] UNODC assessed the criminal investigation, data-collection and forensic science processes and enhanced the capacity of the police to collect and analyse crime data by procuring necessary software and providing training on operational and strategic crime analysis. The Office drafted recommendations for a code of conduct for the judiciary and organized a study tour to Romania to enhance understanding of the reform of the organization of the judiciary among Tunisian magistrates.

61. In Iraq, UNODC support for prison reform was suspended in the second half of 2014, following a request from the donor to close the programme owing to the ongoing security situation in the country and sensitivities in the corrections sector. Before that, UNODC conducted a workshop for prison staff on the treatment of women prisoners in Amman (Jordan) and a training-of-trainers workshop in Erbil, and provided training for senior prison managers on the classification of prisoners.

E. South-Eastern Europe

62. In the reporting period, UNODC supported prison reform in South-Eastern Europe. The Office organized a regional workshop on the Bangkok Rules, attended by representatives of the national prison systems in South-Eastern Europe. Participants from five countries exchanged experiences and made practical recommendations on improving the situation of women prisoners and offenders in the region. In Albania, UNODC conducted an assessment on prison-based rehabilitation programmes.

VI. Partnerships

63. As described above, UNODC has been developing tools and delivering technical assistance projects in partnership with a wide variety of international and local governmental and non-governmental organizations. In addition, UNODC actively participates in a number of formal and informal partnerships within and beyond the United Nations system.

64. The Office joined and coordinated efforts at the policy and implementation levels with key partners engaged in rule of law assistance. Within the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group of the Secretariat,[42] UNODC contributed to ensuring effective and coherent United Nations rule of law efforts in line with the aspirations of national and international partners. UNODC was also involved in the work of the global focal point for police, justice and corrections in post-conflict and other crisis situations, in relation to joint field missions, planning and programming, and in strategic and operational discussions at headquarters. Led by UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in partnership with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN-Women and UNODC, the global focal point supports United Nations country presences in

[41] Project TUNX80.

[42] Members of the Group are the principals of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of Legal Affairs, UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, UN-Women and UNODC.

mission and non-mission settings. UNODC also participates actively in the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, set up by the World Bank, in particular in its Thematic Working Group on Justice and Rule of Law Reform. The Global Forum seeks to promote a better understanding of the role of law and justice and to better integrate legal and judicial institutions in the development process, through capacity-building initiatives and an open repository of knowledge.

65. UNODC participates in the joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, led by UN-Women and the United Nations Population Fund. A number of expert consultations on essential services and quality standards required to respond to violence against women in the areas of health, police, justice and victim support were held in 2014, with a view to developing guidelines that can be piloted in a number of low- and middle-income countries. UNODC is also part of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network.

66. The Office supported the preparation of the workshop on the topic "Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned", to be held at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in collaboration with the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. UNODC works closely with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban crime prevention, including by providing expertise to the development of system-wide United Nations guidelines on safer cities.

67. Strong partners in the area of police reform are the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNDP, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

68. UNODC continued its partnership with Penal Reform International and the Thailand Institute of Justice in the promotion of the Bangkok Rules and increased coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UN-Women. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the International Criminal Court to foster cooperation in matters relating to the enforcement of sentences of imprisonment pronounced by the Court, particularly with respect to increasing the capacity of States to enforce such sentences in accordance with international standards and norms.

69. In June 2014, UNODC organized the first International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems in Johannesburg, South Africa, jointly with the Government of South Africa, Legal Aid South Africa, the International Legal Foundation, the Open Society Justice Initiative and UNDP. The Conference adopted the Johannesburg Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems.[43] UNODC and UNDP started a global study on legal aid, to be completed in 2015.

[43] www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/2014_Johannesburg_Declaration_on_Implementation_of_UNPGLA.pdf.

70. UNODC is an active member of the Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile Justice and its Steering Committee, through which relevant United Nations standards and norms were disseminated at the national, regional and international levels. UNODC cooperated with UNICEF, OHCHR and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in developing and disseminating the new United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures for the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Office organized a high-level panel discussion on violence against children, together with the Governments of Austria and Thailand, UNICEF, OHCHR and the Special Representative, which was held on the margins of the General Assembly. To promote the implementation of the new Model Strategies and Practical Measures, the Office launched the Global Programme on Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which it had developed together with UNICEF. The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/172, welcomed the Global Programme and encouraged Member States and other relevant stakeholders to support and to benefit from it.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

71. During the reporting period, UNODC supported important normative developments in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice reform: the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the development of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures for the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In parallel, UNODC strengthened its promotion of the use and application of the standards and norms through the provision of technical assistance in an increasing number of countries, based on its continued work on data collection and analysis and tool development.

72. Given the central role of the standards and norms in guiding Member States' efforts to develop and implement crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to:

(a) Recommend that Member States:

(i) Recognize the importance of security, justice and the rule of law as enabling conditions and as integral parts of sustainable and equitable growth, and include justice and security goals, targets and indicators in the post-2015 development framework;

(ii) Include crime prevention and criminal justice reform objectives in national development plans, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, poverty reduction strategy papers and related budgets and funding systems, including specific targets and objectives for crime reduction, crime prevention and reintegration of offenders and victims;

(iii) Adopt and implement long-term crime prevention and criminal justice reform policies, strategies, plans and programmes that are knowledge-based and multisectoral, cutting across ministries and engaging public participation, to ensure the full implementation of existing standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

(iv) Use and apply relevant UNODC tools, such as handbooks, training materials and model laws, when developing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, policies and programmes;

(v) Consider requesting the technical assistance of UNODC when embarking on the development and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice reform strategies, policies and programmes;

(vi) Continue to support the role of UNODC in promoting crime prevention legislation, policies and programmes and criminal justice reform, upon request, in post-conflict and crisis situations and to provide extrabudgetary financial resources for the co-location of staff in the global focal point for the police, justice and corrections in post-conflict and other crisis situations and for UNODC participation in joint missions and programmes;

(vii) Provide financial support for UNODC technical assistance to support the implementation of the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, to ensure the sharing of experiences from different regions and to reflect new advances in crime prevention and criminal justice practices;

(b) Recommend that UNODC:

(i) Continue to act as a centre of expertise on crime prevention and criminal justice issues in the United Nations system and to support related data collection and analysis by producing methodological guidance and international standards on data collection, such as the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, and other standard methodological tools for conducting victimization surveys;

(ii) In its responses to counter illicit drugs and crime, make full use of and promote the implementation of the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(iii) Continue to develop guidance and technical assistance instruments, in particular learning tools such as training curricula and e-learning tools;

(iv) Strengthen its capacity to provide legal and technical assistance to Member States and regional entities in crime prevention and criminal justice matters;

(v) Taking into account the process of the review and updating of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, focus special efforts on providing technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in addressing the challenges of prison overcrowding, human rights and security aspects of prison management, the specific needs of vulnerable groups and the treatment of prisoners and pretrial detainees;

(vi) Continue to include crime prevention and criminal justice reform as an essential pillar in all its national and regional integrated programmes, to support countries in building a sound basis on which security and justice are pursued in a sustainable way and with full respect for human rights;

(vii) Contribute to the measurement and implementation of justice and security-related goals, targets and indicators in the post-2015 development framework.